



STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHOOL ICT EDUCATION FOR WORKFORCE

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Abstract

Inadequate supply of ICT skilled labour from the university education and vocational & technical education has created a trend in the labour market, to fill around 50 per cent of vacancies by school leavers. Thus the research was carried to achieve following objectives.

- i. Investigate the employability of the ICT empowered school leavers.
- ii. Investigate the standard rating of the school ICT education system among other sources of the education.
- iii. Investigate the capability of the school education systems to develop ICT empowered labour to satisfy the market needs.
- iv. To recommend possible improvement to uplift the standard of the school ICT education to meet current workforce needs.

Effectiveness of the school ICT education was measured in terms of the employability of the ICT empowered school leavers in workforce. The study has identified seven skill areas that the labour market seeks in school leavers. Gap analysis has been performed between expected and available skills. Relative standard of school ICT education system among other sources of ICT education has been measured on the opinion of ICT empowered school leavers. Factors that determine the standard of school ICT education has been identified and an assessment on their current status has been performed.

According to the analysis, there is a mismatch between the ICT skills expected by the employers and the ICT skills of the school leavers. Only one skill area "Standard Application" matches with the labour market requirements and in all other skill areas the available skills were below the expectations of the employers. Also the contribution of the school education system, to develop the ICT skills of the students for industry requirement was found to be inadequate.



Based on the findings of the research the recommendations made are listed below.

- I. It is advisable to formulate the ICT education policy of general education, in favour of requirement of the labour market and make school leavers more employable.
- II. Revise the ICT curriculum once in two years to accommodate the varying skill requirements in labour market due to technological changes that occur in the market place.
- III. Modular based syllabus revisions in shorter periods.
- IV. Improve the quality of teaching.
- v. Encourage to utilize Audio Visuals for teaching
- vi. Encourage the schools to use the labs for a minimum of 6 hours (Productive time). Change the working hours of the teachers accordingly.
- vii. Completely outsource the operation 'of school ICT labs to private sector with or without teaching and allow offering ICT. education to village in non schooling hours to generate income for sustainability.